Mendhar, Poonch, Mandi, Sundarbani, Nowshera, Manjakote, R.S. Pora, Marh, Khour, Bishna, Vijaypur, Samba, Hiranagar, Barnoti, Ghagwal, Karnah, Uri, Boniyar, Gurez, Rohama, Tangdar, Kralpora, Trehgam, Sogam, Khalsi, Nobra, Drass, Shakar, Nyome and Chiktan.

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has planned to provide landline connections according to waiting list in these towns.

WLL and MARR based telephones in Uttaranchal

†2252. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephones based on WLL and MARR systems in Uttaranchal;

(b) whether there is any proposal regarding conversion of MARR system based telephones into WLL system; and

(c) if so, by when this work would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, the number of telephones based on WLL and MARR in Uttaranchal are 23040 and 952 respectively.

(b) Yes, Sir. All the MARR based telephones (village public telephone) are proposed to be replaced by WLL technology.

(c) The work is proposed to be completed progressively by June 2006.

Submarine cable links

2253. SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's international leased lines are five times more expensive;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that new submarine cable would bring 40-50 per cent annual price decline for international connectivity from India; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.